

Princeton Update June 2005: ALA Annual meeting

**Acquisitions:** Small budget increases over the past few years, combined with the declining value of the dollar have put ever greater stress on the acquisitions budget this year. The result of the rapid burn rate on the budget was a partial hiatus on routine ordering of traditional formats in the last quarter of the fiscal year. The ensuing lull allowed us to temporarily redeploy acquisitions staff to cataloging tasks.

Our rapid response ordering service continues to “win friends and influence people.” In addition to the satisfaction expressed by our public services staff, the instances of faculty buying an item and then requesting reimbursement have dropped to nearly zero.

In process records are now being loaded into our Voyager system for Greek approval materials in addition those from previously reported vendors.

**Cataloging:** The reorganization in Catalog Division, the final phase of which was reported in the January update, has resulted in improved workflow within and to the staff in the Division, and has also achieved the goal of better balancing supervisory load. For additional information about the new structure you may refer to the organizational charts posted at:

<http://library.princeton.edu/departments/tsd/tech/orgchart.html>

The cataloging hold has been reduced by about 10% over the previous year, and over 33% from its peak in July 2003.

By the end of July the final clean-up phase of our retrospective conversion project from 1998-2000 will be completed. The East Asian Library’s CJK retrospective conversion, currently underway, will finish up the first phase in July, and enter the clean-up phase.

An Electronic Resources Cataloging Committee has been formed to develop policy and procedure to insure consistency in treatment. We have also developed standards for cataloging data sets and accompanying code books for our Data and Statistical Services collection.

**Circulation:** As we continue to be space-challenged in the main library, Firestone, we have also made a commitment to eliminate “overflow” shelving throughout the building before the beginning of fall term. This will be accomplished primarily by moving more material to our storage facility.

Based upon a recent quality control study, we are pleased to report a 94% shelving accuracy rate for material that has been returned from circulation or used in house. The overall shelving rate should improve even more as the result of the shelf reading project we expect to undertake during planned system down-time in July.

**Electronic resources management system:** We will be implementing Endeavor's Meridian e-resources management system shortly. Princeton, along with the University of Pittsburgh, Columbia University, and the London School of Economics, is a development partner with Endeavor Systems in the creation of this ERM. Meridian will be independent from the Voyager system, but will be able to query Voyager and retrieve bibliographic and acquisitions data for display. Work is currently underway to customize the configuration of the system and load data from numerous local sources. The first phase of Meridian is intended primarily for support of "back room functions" such as license tracking and acquisition of e-resources. A future release, already in the planning stage, will support additional public services functionality. We expect that Meridian will immediately replace one of our local e-resources databases, and eventually supplant several other such local databases.

**Metadata and digital collections:** The Digital Library Operations Group is working on a prototype digital library of images and metadata, based on 5 collections:

- Calixtus Bull
- Western Americana Stereographs
- Board of Trustees Minutes, Volume 2: 11 April 1797 – 25 September 1823
- Historic Postcards of Princeton University
- *Gender in the Academy* (a book published by Princeton University in 1990)

The prototype will deliver full-text searching of all the materials, leveraged from Text Encoding Initiative and VRA Core metadata. Users will also be able to interact with the images through zooming, panning, and rotation tools. The prototype can be viewed at <http://diglib1.princeton.edu>